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Application Number 10/533231
Response to the Office Action dated 04/01/2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 19-21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended clarify the components of the fluorine-modified silicone resin as supported by the specification at page 9, lines 18-22.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,579,653) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064724). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yuasa discloses a two-component developer that requires a mixture of a toner and a carrier composed of magnetic particles (see coln. 2, lines 47-50) but fails to teach use of the fluorine-modified silicon resin for the carrier, and accordingly, addition of the aminosilane coupling agent to the fluorine-modified silicon resin for the carrier in the two component developer (see also, coln. 40, line 53 - coln. 41, line 6) as claim 1 requires. Nakamura discloses use of fluorine-modified silicone resin (see para. 0021) but fails to disclose any fluorine-modified silicone resin that contains an aminosilane coupling agent that claim 1 requires. In addition, Yuasa discloses that magnetic fine power can be added to a black toner to form a magnetic toner and lists an aminosilane coupling agent as one of five alternative coupling agents used for treating the surface of the magnetic fine power in the toner (see coln. 24, lines 36-37 and coln. 26, lines 26-30). The black toner of Yuasa, however, is a component of a one-component developer (coln. 2, lines 47-50). There is no reasonable basis to take the aminosilane coupling agent used for the toner of a one-component developer and apply it to the fluorine-modified silicone resin of Nakamura that is used for a carrier in a two-component developer. Use of this carrier coated with the fluorine-modified silicon resin containing the aminosilane coupling agent of claim 1 provides advantageous properties of the two-component developer of claim 1 such as durability by increasing coating resin hardness, reducing deterioration of toner-

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spent, stabilizing charging, less consumption of a toner, and less developing memory, i.e., reducing remaining images in history, when used in combination with a toner containing a particular type of wax of claim 1 (see page 12, lines 7-23 of the specification). Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguished from Yuasa in view of Nakamura, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,963) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064724), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Mizoe et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0152856). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants understand that Yuasa reference actually is U.S. Patent No. 6,579,653 that is cited in the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 14-18 above. Mizoe does not remedy the deficiencies of Yuasa in view of Nakamura. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 4, 5, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,963) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064724), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0086229). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants understand again that '963 Yuasa is U.S. Patent No. 6,579,653 cited above. Yuasa '229 like Yuasa '653 discloses a magnetic body that is used in a one-component toner and can be treated with a coupling agent and lists the aminosilane coupling agent as one of five alternative coupling agents used for treating the surface of the magnetic fine powder in a toner of the one-component developer, not a carrier of the two-component developer (see 005, 0053 and 0055 comparing 0056, and 0191). Therefore, Yuasa '229 does not remedy the deficiencies of Yuasa in view of Nakamura as Yuasa '229. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

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Claims 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,963) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064724, and further in view of Shimizu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,607). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants understand again that Yuasa is U.S. Patent No. 6,579,653. Shimizu does not remedy the deficiencies of Yuasa in view of Nakamura. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



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DPM/my/ad

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300